



FOFA Gallery

**Ryan Clayton
& Emilie Morin**

***The Spectre Animates
our Bones***

March 9th – June 2nd, 2023

Vernissage
March 9th, 5-7 pm

Monday to Friday
11 am to 6 pm

Tiohtià:ke / Montreal
1515 St-Catherine West,
H3G 2W1, EV 1-715
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From March 9th to June 2nd 2023, the FOFA Gallery hosts the work of **Emilie Morin & Ryan Clayton**.

The Spectre Animates our Bones is a work of braided dance. Emilie and Ryan choreographed a movement piece which each of them performed individually and recorded through motion capture technology. Each of their individual captures has been mapped onto the same virtual object, animating its virtual body through space. Presented as a dual-channel video, viewers can stand within an undulating 3D scan of the performer's kitchen and watch the performance from multiple perspectives. It is a braided performance in that each movement strand is limited to its own characteristics, but braided together, they create a whole that superimposes itself to produce new meanings while still maintaining the characteristic movements of each of them. Motion capture technology is deployed in this piece to question human agency and movement: can performers possess qualities that make them undeniably recognizable? Can virtual movement act as a stand-in for these unique human agents? The choreography was built with these main questions in mind, finding ways to confuse the viewers' eyes into a blurred vision of "virtual" and "real" movement. Dance and performance are often associated with the ephemeral, compared to the groundedness of the art object. Our virtual forms become an archive, rooting a dance performance in the gallery space, and suggesting that what contemporary artist Brendan Fernandes calls the "footmade" is as valuable as the handmade.

Since 2017, **Ryan Clayton** (contemporary artist) and **Emilie Morin** (dance and new media artist) have maintained a collaborative performance practice focusing primarily on consumer telecommunication technologies such as Skype, Twitch and Zoom. Through their practice, they have noticed that telecommunication networks have turned ubiquitous almost to the point of invisibility. These networks seamlessly integrate into humanity's lives, deeply impacting how humans communicate and relate to one another. The artists deploy various technologies in their performances, from phone calls and text messaging to VR conversations using motion capture software that manipulates immersive and digitally created worlds. Their collaboration is specifically interested in telecommunication's meaning-making capacity and ability to transfer the indiscernible.

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